



FFA's NEW ERA

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

October 2009

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DEJONG PREPARED TO LEAD OUT LOUD

BY JACOB ENGLIN, STATE SECRETARY



Imagine the South Dakota FFA Convention. You walk into the session hall and look around to see 1,800 other FFA members. Now take those 1,800 members and multiply them by 30. That will be the crowd of FFA members from across the country attending the National FFA Convention, October 21-24.

Not only will there be inspiring speakers, Career Development Events and the career fair, there will also be the election of the 2009-2010 National FFA Officer Team. This year's South Dakota National FFA Officer Candidate is Wyatt DeJong.

Wyatt is a 2008 Winner graduate and is currently a sophomore at SDSU. He is majoring in Agricultural Education and Animal Science with a minor in Journalism. He served as the South Dakota

State FFA Secretary in 2008-2009. He is active in many groups including Block and Bridle, Little "I," and Honors College.

If elected, what would Wyatt do as a National FFA Officer besides national FFA convention? After the six new officers are elected, they begin two months of training on speaking, teaching, education and agriculture. Then they take to the roads and the skies to travel over 100,000 miles to see FFA members in action and motivate them. They also spread the word about FFA and agricultural education to hundreds of business and industry leaders. It's a crazy schedule! The officers will attend state conventions, presenting workshops, giving speeches, meeting members and getting to know them. Not only do the officers travel the U.S., they will also spend eleven days in Japan experiencing international agriculture and culture.

Best of luck, Wyatt!

Chapter Visits

By Chelsey Abler, State Reporter

Prepare yourself for a whirlwind of excitement and dare to step out of your zone of comfort as the South Dakota State FFA Officers travel to your school for chapter visits, bringing challenges for your class in a game of monopoly and racing the minds an intense game of Jeopardy. Visits kicked off in De Smet on September 16th. With 82 chapters to visit by November 20th, this fast-tracked train is booking its way to your school, bringing with it the opportunity to learn more about what the organization has to offer YOU! Chapter visits focus on learning ways to get involved at the local, district, state, and national levels. From learning more about Career Development Events (CDEs) to understanding the importance of our choices, chapter visits offer vast insight into state and national FFA opportunities, personal growth, and scholarships and agriculture careers for promising futures. By getting involved during chapter visits, you will find just a hint of what the SD FFA has to offer you. Join in the fun! You'll be one step closer to reaching your fullest potential and becoming the leader you were born to be.



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SD FFA members Lead Out Loud

The following FFA members have found a way to Lead Out Loud by qualifying to compete or perform at the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. They will be representing SD at the National FFA Convention, October 21st - October 24th, 2009, competing, being recognized for their hard work, or having been selected for a special honor.

National Officer Candidate – Wyatt DeJong, Kennebec

Voting Delegates – Rebecca Naasz, Platte; Brady Duxbury, Wessington; Chelsey Abler, Hoven; Caitlin Johnson, Hetland

Flag Bearer – Jacob Englin, Bruce

National Chapter Award - 3 Star – Garretson, McCook Central and Harrisburg

National Band - Kathryn Haak, Howard; Hannah Kolbeck, Paige Sewright, Beau Bartscher and Raymond Anderson of McCook Central

National Chorus – Amanda Froelich, Sturgis; Kala Carpenter, Canton and Alexander Baatz, Harrisburg

National Talent – Randy Burghardt and Austin Genzlinger of Howard; Kayla Lee Tingle, Elkton and Troy Larsen, Viborg

Agri-Science Fair – Brandy Healthcote, Florence; Chelley Eisenbeisz, Bowdle

Ag Communications – West Central Team; Riley Olsen, Joe Schartz, Spencer Kurtz, Shannon Miller, Stacia Knuth

Ag Issues – Newell Team; Taylor Wickersham, Tyler Hogan, Blane Hotchkiss, Morgan Myers, Kyle Tiff, Katelyn Tiff, Ariana Hawkins

Agricultural Sales – Garretson Team; Ian Carlson, Emilie Gehrke, Zeke Hollaren, Nick Mueller

Agricultural Mechanics – Freeman Team; Patrick Hofer, Dan Stern, Daniel Gering, Lawson Graber

Agronomy (Crops) – Hitchcock-Tulare Team; Kara Brock, Shawn Doren, Garrett Masat, Erika Roeber

Creed – Andrew Rausch, Hoven

Dairy Cattle – Duebrook Team; Josh Lunden, Brandon Johnson, Shelby Lunden, Jacob Englin

Dairy Cattle Handler - Deana VanKooten, Sioux Valley

Dairy Foods – Milbank Team; Brandi Niedert, Adam Cloos, Megan Johnson, Nichole Buchele

Natural Resources – Milbank Team; Patrick Bray, Scott Athey, Kylie Poel, Megan Ludwig

Extemporaneous Speaking – Casey Janisch, Clark

Ag Business Management – Willow Lake Team; Megan Nelson, Jennifer Knock, Ashley Tonak, Karissa Warkenthien

Floriculture – Philip Team; Grace Schnabel, Loni Nelson, Michelle Vantassel, Morgan Frein

Food Science & Technology –Milbank Team; Emma Christensen, Brenna Rausch, Brent Seehafer, Kjersten Ydstie

Horse Evaluation – Wolsey-Wessington Team; Padyne Scheer, Mariah Waters, Leah Cypher, Bo Mutchelknaus

Job Interview – Abby Settje, Wilmot

Livestock - Mitchell Team; Kelsey Reppenning, Samantha Hanten, Weston Geppert, Austin Havlik

Meats Evaluation & Technology – Kimball Team; Ann Kroupa, Shelby Kroupa, Taylor Geppert, Toby Lutter

Marketing Plan – Philip Team; Mick Trask, Carissa Doolittle, Caleb Clements

Nursery/Landscape – Mitchell Team; Collin Gronseth, Cole Johnson, Courtney Nolz, Tasha Paulson

Parliamentary Procedure – Harrisburg Team; Kristin Ackermann, Calista Winter, Elle Tornberg, Ryan Penning, Jessica Faris, Brad Hewer

Prepared Public Speaking – Kiley Kaufman, DeSmet

Lead out Loud

By Jacob Englin, State Secretary

When I think about October, many things come to mind: leaves crackling beneath my feet, corn and soybeans being harvested, candy-corn, and Halloween. But, the most important thing about October is the national FFA convention! The 82nd National FFA Convention is coming your way October 21-24!

There will be a sea of FFA jackets everywhere consuming Indianapolis. FFA members from across the United States, Puerto-Rico, and the Virgin Islands will be in attendance. What can you do at convention? It begins with sessions. The opening session begins October 21st with Mike Rowe from Discovery Channel's Dirty Jobs. From there, you can attend workshops, participate in more sessions to cheer on award winners and learn about ways to make the most of your FFA career, eat at some amazing restaurants in Indianapolis and travel to agriculture and educational tours throughout Indiana. Watch the National FFA Band and Chorus. Attend the National FFA Talent show. Go shopping at the FFA Shopping Mall and learn more about different opportunities at the Career Fair. 78 of our own South Dakota FFA members will be competing in Career Development Events, 6 are National Proficiency finalist, are 12 are talented enough to perform for thousands. Finally, watch as the 2009-2010 National FFA Officer team gets elected.

Pack your favorite national blue, corduroy jacket and your best official dress and come along to the 82nd National FFA Convention!

PROFICIENCY FINALISTS EXCITED TO REPRESENT

The South Dakota FFA is pleased to announce the state will be represented by 6 Proficiency Finalists at the 2009 National FFA Convention. The finalists are:

- A. Maria Skoglund, McCook Central Chapter – Agricultural Education-Entrepreneurship/Placement
- B. James Haak, Howard Chapter – Agricultural Services - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- C. Matt Moen, Harrisburg Chapter – Landscape Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- D. Scott Hoiten, McCook Central Chapter - Outdoor Recreation - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- E. Trent Thompson, Harrisburg Chapter – Small Animal Production and Care - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- F. Zach Hansen, McCook Central Chapter – Swine Production - Placement



The first place winner in each of South Dakota's proficiency areas competed against over 1,350 applicants from across the nation in 50 categories ranging from Emerging Agricultural Technologies to Diversified Crop Production. Of these national candidates, the top four students were selected to compete for honors presented during the national FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this October 21-24. Outstanding candidates possess the highest levels of skills and significant progress in moving into an agricultural career or enterprise as a result of the agricultural education program, their supervised agricultural experience (SAE) and their involvement in FFA. All finalists are also eligible to compete to go on a week long international tour to Costa Rica provided by national sponsors as part of the Special Projects they support.



33 Achieve Highest FFA Degree

Thirty-three South Dakota FFA members will receive the coveted golden American Degree key, the highest degree conferred by the National FFA Organization. This honor recognizes students who have demonstrated leadership abilities and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing and service programs. Recipients must earn \$7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program and productively invest at least \$1,500 of those earnings. Only about one half of one percent of the total national membership attains this high honor. The recipients will be honored at a reception on October 23rd and the awards ceremony will take place October 24th at the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. South Dakota's golden key recipients include:

- Mitchell L. Barber, Harrisburg
- G. Colton Buus, Lennox-Sundstrom
- Shad Christman, Lemmon
- Wyatt DeJong, Winner
- Austin DeZeeuw, Elkton
- Bryce Eggers, Wagner
- Lauren Eichacker, McCook Central
- Ryan Frerichs, Wilmot
- Luke M. Goldie, Harrisburg
- Kimberly Haas, Harrisburg
- Scott Hoiten, McCook Central
- Nikki Lee Hojer, De Smet
- Katrina Holdahl, Tri-Valley
- Trevor Harlan Holscher, Waubay
- Kay Lee Huffman, Harrisburg
- Zak Kampmann, Elkton
- Britney Jo Kaufman, De Smet
- Daniel Koupal, Wagner
- Chloe Kruse, Wilmot
- Matt Moen, Harrisburg
- Traci Osterberg, McCook Central
- Alicia Elizabeth Reif, McCook Central
- Ross O. Renback, Harrisburg
- Jenna L. Rist, Viborg
- Tandi Shape, McCook Central
- Maria Skoglund, McCook Central
- Thomas J. Smith, Kimball
- Travis Swier, West Central
- Colin Tobin, Wessington Springs
- Thorwald Vostad, Sioux Valley
- Paul Westhoff, McCook Central
- Carl Wobig, McCook Central
- Anthony J. Zubke, Waubay

2009 South Dakota FFA

Members of the South Dakota FFA participated in a wide range of educational activities during the 2009 South Dakota State Fair held September 2-7, in Huron. The results include:

Chapter Sweepstakes and \$50 award for highest total score in all classes, including Chapter Exhibits, Ag Exhibits, Livestock and AgriScience:

1st – Sioux Valley

Chapter Exhibits (sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese): 1st place – DeSmet

Top Ag Exhibits Chapter (sponsored by Valley Queen Cheese): 1st place – Webster

RABBIT SHOW (sponsored by Knutson Suffolks)

A. Grand Champion – Drew Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom
Reserve Grand Champion – Amanda Brown, Madison Central

B. Rabbit Showmanship :

1st – Amanda Brown, Madison Central

2nd – Melissa Nelson, McCook Central

3rd – Drew Sweeter, Lennox-Sundstrom

BEEF SHOW

C. Champion Market Steer – Austin Van Asselt, Tri-Valley
Reserve Champion Market Steer – Ethan Johnson, Baltic

D. Market Beef Showmanship – Grand: Ethan Johnson, Baltic;
Reserve: Mekenna Boss, Faulkton

E. Champion Market Heifer –Shelby Kroupa, Kimball

Reserve Champion Market Heifer – Ashley Beer, Canton

F. Champion Breeding Heifer – Jordan Mack, Watertown
Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer – Britney Kaufman, DeSmet

G. Breeding Beef Showman – Grand: Courtney Johnson, Huron;

Reserve: Blane Osterday, Bowdle

SWINE SHOW

H. Champion Market Gilt – Carly Johnke, Madison

Reserve Champion Market Gilt – Shelby Kroupa, Kimball

I. Market Gilt Showmanship - Grand: Hilary Paulson, Freeman;
Reserve: Brian Graft, Chester

J. Champion Market Barrow – Ashley Mette, Chester

Reserve Champion Market Barrow – Grant Raml, Watertown

K. Swine Showmanship – Grand: Carly Johnke, Madison;
Reserve: Ashley Mette, Chester

SHEEP SHOW

L. Champion Breeding Ewe – Aaron Held, Brookings

Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe – Kali Wolkow, DeSmet

M. Breeding Ewe Showmanship - Grand: Aaron Held, Brookings;
Reserve: Kayla Wolkow, DeSmet

Champion Market Lamb – Britney Kaufman, DeSmet

Reserve Champion Market Lamb – Abby Englin, Duebrook



FFA State Fair Results



N. Market Lamb Showmanship - Grand: Erin Wilson, Lennox-Sundstrom; Reserve: Brady Miller, Sioux Valley

DAIRY SHOW

Supreme Champion Female – Jesse Thomas, Huron

Champion Holstein Female – Logan Triebwasser, Sioux Valley

O. Sr Champion Holstein – Logan Triebwasser, Sioux Valley

Sr Reserve Champion Holstein – Stephanie Nussbaum, Garretson

P. Jr Champion Holstein Heifer – Jessica Gross, Chester

Jr Reserve Champion Holstein Heifer – Becca Gaikowski, Waubay

Champion All Other Breed Female – Jesse Thomas, Huron

Q. Sr Champion All Other Breed – Jesse Thomas, Huron

Sr Reserve Champion All Other Breed – Stephanie Nussbaum, Garretson

R. Jr Champion All Other Breed Heifer – Madalyn Plucker, Lennox-Sundstrom

Jr Reserve Champion All Other Breed Heifer – Jesse Thomas, Huron

S. Dairy Showmanship

1st Place – Jesse Thomas, Huron

Jesse will also be competing in the 2010 National FFA

Convention as the SD FFA Dairy Handler.

2nd Place – Hayley Souza, Milbank

3rd Place - Ashley Rennick, Sioux Valley

T. ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP

1st Place – Erin Wilson, Lennox-Sundstrom

2nd Place – Courtney Johnson, Huron

FFA Steps Up and Stands Out at State Fair

By Trent Thompson, State Sentinel

The South Dakota State Fair kicked-off on September 3rd and ran through September 7th in Huron. 250 members from near and far brought in their projects such as livestock, metals, woods and floral arrangements. Ag-tivities were offered in the FFA Agriculture Learning Center throughout the week to help kids learn about agriculture. We helped them plant crop seeds, milk cows, and see the variety of products that come from agriculture. FFA members and district officers joined in to assist by putting on ag-tivities, caring for the animals, greeting fair goers and helping people understand more about livestock, companion animals and agricultural education. 250 FFA members participated in FFA livestock shows with exhibits ranging from rabbits to cattle to swine and sheep. South Dakota FFA thanks everyone who participated and volunteered during the fair for “Stepping Up and Standing Out.” Thanks to those supporters for providing animals and a huge thank you to Dakotaland Feeds, South Dakota Pork Producers, South Dakota Cattlemen’s Association, Pioneer, CHS, SD State Fair and Department of Agriculture as well as South Dakota Wheat Growers.

Chapter Chatter



contest. Good luck Andy!

Hoven FFA – Megan DeRouchey - The Hoven FFA Chapter has been getting into the swing of things as the new school year starts up with our new advisor Mr. Gittings. This summer we had seven members attend Leadership Retreat, and one member attended the Washington Leadership Conference. Two of our members also attended Range Camp and Range Land Days. We just held our annual brat feed on September 11th at the Hoven/Edmunds Central Football game against McLaughlin. Many of our members just got back from the South Dakota State Fair where many of us showed in the FFA Beef Show. Other members went down and helped the pork producers in their booth. We are also preparing for the Land and Range Judging competitions and Leadership CDEs coming up. Andrew Rausch is also preparing for the National FFA Convention. He is going to represent South Dakota in the Creed Speaking

Rapid City FFA - Kena Patrick, Chapter President - The Rapid City FFA Chapter is currently trying to get organized for the start of another great year. We had a wonderful summer which included sending 5 members to the second West River Leadership Retreat, and having our annual summer picnic. At the picnic we brought family and friends together to share hotdogs and great desserts. We are now preparing for our first monthly FFA meeting of the year and getting ready for the fall leadership CDE's which will be our main topic for the meeting.

Harrisburg FFA - Autumn Krueger, Chapter Reporter - The Harrisburg FFA has been busy this fall moving equipment from the old Ag. shop to our new High School Ag-Ed facility. A few things are still under construction but it will be great when completed. Our chapter also hosted the Old MacDonald's Farm petting zoo for the 7th consecutive year at the Sioux Empire Fair this August. Old MacDonald's Farm was a fun experience for all with 71 different members working at the fair. This event was used to promote agricultural awareness and as a new member recruitment event. The parliamentary procedures team began practice the first full week of school to ensure that their skills are up to par for National Convention. The officer team is in the process of planning an informational night for current and new members on September 21st at 6:30 p.m. with a kickball tournament to follow. We are also preparing for our annual Chili Feed fundraiser which will be October 15, prior to the last home football game. Proceeds from the Chili Feed will help pay for our expenses to the National FFA Convention. Fall CDE practices will start up very soon to ensure everyone is ready for our first competition on November 5 in Brookings. The year is off to a busy and fantastic start for the Harrisburg FFA.

Sturgis FFA - Amanda Froelich - Was that a 'Honk' I heard? Yes, Indeed. The Sturgis FFA Chapter has already started speeding through the year with a wide variety of activities. With early preparation for CDE's, Sturgis FFA hosted Range Camp early June, the 4th, 5th, and 6th. Many FFA members also helped out at the Central States Fair Petting Zoo, August 25th. Traveling to Newell on September 15th, Sturgis FFA will practice for Livestock Judging and Agronomy. We are definitely looking forward to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, hoping to see many more chapters there as well.

Menno FFA - Ellie Wintersteen - Chapter Reporter - The Menno FFA had a fairly busy summer. In July, we held their annual 4th of July BBQ. We had a great turnout! On August 19, Robert, Sara, Mary Jo and Kaleb went to Dakotafest to help the State Officers serve ice cream for the SD Soybean Council. Lucas went to Huron to State Fair to help at the FFA animal nursery.

Florence FFA News, Michelle Mastel, Chapter Reporter - The Florence FFA began the new school year after a busy summer. Members have been working on their SAE programs as well as several summer activities including the FFA Day at the Dome. Twelve chapter members attended a very good baseball game. Three members also attended the East River Leadership Camp at Camp NeSoDak. Chapter officers Kaitlin Hintz, Hollie Pommier, and Dustin Zemlicka all attended the three day event. The chapter officers also went to the KWAT Radio Station in Watertown and were interviewed by KWAT farm director Jody Heemstra prior to the start of school this past August. The members are now preparing for land and range evaluation competition which will be coming up the first week of October.

McCook Central FFA - Brittany Lynn - The McCook Central FFA Chapter had a very busy summer this year. We started out with the officers of the chapter going to Lake Vermillion for our Officer Retreat. We used this time to develop our POA for the year. Later on in the summer we participated in the McCook/Miner Counties Relay for Life Event. It was a fun-filled night of games, walking, remembering, and raising money for those people who have been affected by cancer. That same weekend, some officers and other members attended Leadership Retreat at Camp Bob Marshall in Custer, South Dakota. Here we learned to be good leaders and also used this time to further develop our POA for the year. We just recently also helped host a benefit breakfast for a local family who has a baby with an illness. The benefit was very successful. We are currently preparing for land-judging and leadership CDEs

Bridgewater FFA - This summer we were able to enjoy our officer's retreat at Cutties in Okoboji. On August 20th we went to the Turner County Fair and assisted at the Old McDonald's Farm. On the 27th of August we had our fall picnic to introduce our new members and their family to our FFA chapter members and activities. During the State Fair 5 of our chapter members and our advisor helped serve at the SD Pork Producers stand. For our fall fundraiser we are having a tailgate pork loin feed at the last football game. December 5th will be our annual Country Christmas where we provide games and prizes for the kids in the community.

Lemmon FFA - Over the summer, our FFA Chapter really buckled down and got to work. We kicked off the summer activities with FFA Leadership Retreat at Camp Bob Marshall. While at camp we created some summer goals. When we returned home, we sold snow cones at our annual Boss Cowman Rodeo. From there our team of officer girls spent a morning rolling up wire for the Forest Service and Grand River Grazing Association. One day later our officer team headed to the Black Hills and Palmer Gulch for our officer retreat. While there, we planned goals for the school year and bonded with our team. A week upon returning home, we hosted a free will Back to School Supper and Barbeque for the community to enjoy. We served hot dogs, beans, various salads, bars, chips, and a drink. At the Lemmon Jr. Livestock Show and Sale some members showed their animals, while others helped run the Ag Skill - A - Thon. This school year we will be hosting the District IV CDE's, bake sales, fruit sales, and a winter formal. The Lemmon FFA Chapter had a successful summer and we are looking forward to more success this school year.



Howard FFA - Kathryn Haak - Chapter Reporter - The Howard FFA has begun a new year with some exciting activities and fundraisers. The Howard FFA Chapter began fundraising with a concession stand at the Prairie Village Jamboree and had quite a success. Howard FFA has just started selling Butterbraids for their fall fundraiser. They haven't done much traveling this year yet, but they just recently went to the DeSmet land judging school and will be going to Wessington Springs for the Central Region land judging competition on October 6th. A fun activity that the chapter is hosting again this year is SOFY (Save Our Farm Youth) for the 3rd through 6th graders. This is one of the favorite events for the members to interact with younger students to teach them about how to be safe on the farm. That's all for the Howard FFA Chapter Chatter!

Clark FFA - Andrea Paulson - Chapter Reporter - Throughout the summer our officer team attended Summer Leadership Retreat. We also had two representatives from our chapter attend WLC. Nine of our chapter members are also getting ready to represent the Clark FFA chapter and the SD FFA Association at National FFA Convention. Casey Janisch will not only represent our chapter, but he will be competing in the national extemporaneous speaking CDE.

Tri-Valley FFA- The Tri-Valley FFA Chapter has a great year ahead of us! We started our year with our chapter kick-off and tons of music and dancing. We are looking forward to our many activities including Fall CDEs, football concessions and fruit sales that are sneaking around the corner! The chapter has five

Foundation Feature - October 2009

Another busy summer has ended, and we are back to school and back to work. No matter what the season, we stay "Forever Blue" as we reconnect with FFA members in all walks of life in person, over the phone and through the mail.

It's that time of year again for the Blue Jackets Bright Futures FFA Jacket Program! This SD FFA Foundation program provides young FFA members with the opportunity to earn an FFA jacket of their very own. Sponsor a jacket for \$55 and help a SD FFA member learn what "Forever Blue" is all about!



STATIONED BY THE OWL

BY BRADY DUXBURY, STATE PRESIDENT

Tiffany Sanderson is the new State Supervisor of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education and State FFA Advisor. Mrs. Sanderson was involved in the Lemmon South Dakota FFA chapter in high school. She participated in career development events including parliamentary



procedure, public speaking, range and soils judging, meats judging, and agriscience fair as well as having a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) that included beef cattle production, farm radio broadcasting, and agriscience research on cattle grazing. Mrs. Sanderson served the SD Association as President in 1998-1999, and her career in FFA continued to the national level where she worked for the National FFA Organization from 2003 until 2008. In her current position with the Department of Education, Mrs. Sanderson works with agricultural and natural resource teachers across the state of South Dakota and has this to say: "I've thought about working in non-ag ed/FFA jobs, but I haven't found a place where my work could focus so much on helping people be their best. I love it!" Tiffany is married to Nathan Sanderson and has a two-year-old son, Carter.

Thank You to our SD FFA Foundation Bronze Sponsors (\$50 - \$99)

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Lorenz Manufacturing Co.	William and Mary Schoenfish

"I believe in the future of agriculture with a faith born not of words, but of deeds..."

-The FFA Creed

Help SD FFA members learn, lead and succeed by contributing to the SD FFA Foundation today!

Please record my contribution of \$ _____

FFA Jacket Program - please use my \$55 contribution to sponsor an FFA Jacket for a SD FFA member.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZipCode _____

Phone _____

The SD FFA Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Your donation is eligible for a charitable deduction on your federal income tax return. Consult your tax advisor

South Dakota's Got Talent!

By Rebecca Naasz, State FFA Treasurer

Twelve talented South Dakota FFA members will steal the national spotlight from the likes of Toby Keith and Mike Rowe at the 82nd National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Hannah Kolbeck, Paige Sewright, Beau Bartscher, and Ray Anderson – all of McCook Central, and Kathryn Haak of Howard FFA, will join nearly 100 members from all over the nation in the National FFA Band. The ensemble practices, marches, and performs throughout the four day convention. In this year's National FFA Chorus are Amanda Froelich of Sturgis, Kala Carpenter of Canton, and Alexander Baatz of Harrisburg. They will entertain over 50,000 members, as well as passing pedestrians, at various downtown locations in Indianapolis. There are 95 members in the national choir. Look for Randy Burghart, Austin Genzlinger (both of Howard), Kayla Lee Tingle of Elkton, and Troy Larson of Viborg, to amaze the crowds before sessions, during evening concerts, and at special banquets with their unique talents. These four have earned their spot among over 60 members from nearly 30 states, as members in this year's National FFA Talent. There are over 200 members in these prestigious groups, and having the opportunity to perform with them requires hard work and dedication. We are proud of our 12 talented performers and wish them the best of luck!

Get to Know Your State Officers!



Trent Thompson, Sentinel
19
Hometown: Harrisburg, SD
Siblings: 1 sister, 2 brothers
Favorite color: John Deere Green
Best FFA Memory: Getting All-State Parliamentary Procedure Reporter my senior year.

Favorite CDE's: Parliamentary Procedure, Livestock Evaluation
Random Fact: My SAE is raising and Showing Swine, Poultry and Rabbits.



Jacob Englin, Secretary
18
Hometown: Bruce, SD
Siblings: 2 sisters, 1 brother
Favorite Color: Navy Blue
Best FFA Memory: State FFA Convention in 2009: dairy cattle evaluation team placed first.
Favorite CDE's: Dairy

Cattle Evaluation and Job Interview
Random Fact: My favorite singers are either the Jonas Brothers or Lady GaGa.



Brady Duxbury, President
19
Hometown: Wessington, SD
Siblings: 1 brother, 1 sister
Favorite Colors: Blue and Gold
Best FFA Memory: Trip to Oklahoma for the National Range Judging contest.
Favorite CDE: Range or

Soils Judging
Random Fact: I can turn both of my feet backwards.



Rebecca Naasz, Treasurer
18
Hometown: Platte, SD
Siblings: 1 sister
Favorite colors: purple and blue
Best FFA Memory: Being a part of the 2008 National convention band.
Favorite CDE's: Extemp

and Prepared Public Speaking.
Random Fact: My family raises border collies.



Caitlin Johnson, Vice President
18
Hometown: Badger, SD
Siblings: 1 sister and twin brothers
Favorite Color: Pink
Best FFA Memory: Traveling to WLC with my sister and Miss O'Donnell

Favorite CDE's: Ag Sales and Floriculture
Random Fact: I LOVE FOOTBALL



Chelsey Ablor, Reporter
19
Hometown: Hoven, SD
Siblings: 3 brother
Favorite Color: Pink!
Best FFA Memory: FFA Leadership Retreat my sophomore year
Favorite CDE's: Job Interview and Creed Speaking

Random Fact: I really enjoy dirt biking with my brothers.

National FFA Organization Prepares New Century Farmers for the Future

During an intensive five-day conference in Des Moines, Iowa, in July 2010 participants will network with industry experts, presenters and each other. They will attend a series of workshops and sessions discussing topics ranging from the global marketplace to farm financing, consumer trends and managing risk. **Young men and women who are pursuing a career in production agriculture are encouraged to apply.** For more information, or to apply for this opportunity, visit the National FFA Website at <http://www.ffa.org>. Applications are due March 20, 2010.